

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220268

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 12957 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK
AND MONROVIA DATED AUGUST 25, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12957

FROM AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS - UN SUBCOMMIS-
SION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF
MINORITIES.

REF: GENEVA 12413

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) ON COMMUNICATIONS COMPLETED ITS
ASSIGNMENT TODAY, 25 AUGUST AND THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS
AND SOME BAD NEWS.

2. THE GOOD NEWS FIRST: WG IS CITING LARGEST NUMBER (11)
OF COUNTRIES SINCE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED IN 1972. ADDI-
TIONAL POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IS THAT DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA
IS ONE OF THE ELEVEN NATIONS CITED. BAD NEWS IS THAT USA
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WAS CITED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1503 PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED.

3. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE CITED AS A RESULT OF ONE
OR MORE COMMUNICATIONS: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BURMA, CHILE,
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, ETHIOPIA, MOROCCO, PARAGUAY, UGANDA,
USA AND URUGUAY.

4. THE WG WAS AWARE THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (HRC) IS STUDYING THE SITUATION IN BOLIVIA, CHILE, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA AND URUGUAY AND SO THE WG RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUB-COMMISSION TRANSMIT THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION TO THE HRC AS A PART OF ITS CONTINUING STUDIES.

5. OF THE TWO COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPU-
CHEA, ONE WAS AUTHORED BY KEO ANN, WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE
LAST FREELY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMBODIA.
THE COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE U.S. WAS SUBMITTED BY THE
MEMPHIS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMUNICATION
ALLEGES THAT BLACK AMERICANS ARE SUBJECTED TO
DISCRIMINATION AND REPRESSIVE MEASURES PRACTICED BY THE
POLICE IN THE MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY TERRITORIES IN
TENNESSEE AND IT CITES INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUCH ALLEGED
ABUSES BY THE POLICE. THE COMMUNICATION ALSO ALLEGES THAT
DUE PROCESS OF LAW IS NOT OBSERVED WITH REGARD TO BLACKS
IN MEMPHIS COUNTY AND POINTS OUT THAT APPEALS TO LOCAL
AUTHORITIES WAS TO NO AVAIL. A RATHER POLEMICAL SPECIAL
REPORT ON THE SITUATION WAS PREPARED BY A JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE MEMPHIS CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, MEMPHIS COMMIT-
TEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BRIDGEWATER-SHELBY COUNTY NAACP AND
THE CHURCH OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS NO GOVERNMENT
REPLY.

6. READERS SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS WORKING GROUP REPORT IS
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A PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT AND THAT THIS PROCEDURE WAS CARRIED
OUT UNDER THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503.
VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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